



NEWS RELEASE

**NELSON P. COHEN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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#07-141

**ANCHORAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT
TO SELLING CRACK COCAINE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, October 16, 2007, that Phillip James Collins III, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to charges of selling crack cocaine.

Collins, age 24, of 1806 Laura Circle in Anchorage, pleaded guilty to two counts of distribution of crack cocaine before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Christine M. Thoreson advised the court that Collins sold a total of 10.8 grams of crack cocaine on two separate occasions in November 2006.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing for January 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. On Count One, the law provides for a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, with a maximum of forty years in prison, a fine of \$2,000,000, or both. On Count Two, the law provides for a total sentence of twenty years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Pending sentencing, the court continued the Collins' detention.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case. SAUSA Thoreson is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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